



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

May 31, 2006

Dr. Alexa Posny, Director
Office of Special Education Programs
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Dr. Posny:

This letter is in response to instructions contained in a March 14, 2006, communication from your office regarding Missouri's State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. In that letter, we were instructed to submit data to your office by June 1, 2006, regarding the current status of correction of non-compliance for SPP indicator 7 and 9. The attached charts have been updated from those originally submitted to reflect the current status.

In addition, we are submitting an assurance that confirms the State of Missouri uses a 30-day timeline under 34 CFR Section 303.423(b) which does not provide for any extension.

I trust the data provided satisfies the requirements requested. If there are questions regarding this information or if further information or clarification is needed, please contact me at melodie.friedebach@dese.mo.gov or 573-751-4444 or Joyce Jackman, Part C Coordinator, at joyce.jackman@dese.mo.gov or 573-751-3559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melodie A. Friedebach", is positioned above the typed name.

Melodie A. Friedebach, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Special Education

lmb

Attachments

- c: Mr. Larry Ringer, Office of Special Education Programs
Ms. Barbara Route, Office of Special Education Programs
Ms. Joyce Jackman, Coordinator, Early Intervention Services
Ms. Margaret Strecker, Director, Compliance
Ms. Mary Corey, Director, Data Coordination

Attachment 1

Correction of Noncompliance (SPP Indicator 9)

A. Monitoring related to Monitoring Priority Areas and Indicators

As reported in State Performance Plan						Update
SPP Indicator	# SPOE/ Agencies Reviewed 2003-04	# SPOE/ Agencies with Findings 2003-04	# Findings in SPOE/ Agencies 2003-04	# Corrected within 1 Year	% Corrected within 1 Year	% Corrected by June 1, 2006*
1. EI services in timely manner	16	3	3	3	100.0%	100.0%
2. EI services in natural environments	16	1	1	1	100.0%	100.0%
3. Outcomes	New – No data					
4. Families	New – No data					
5. Percent birth to 1	None					
6. Percent birth to 3	None					
7. 45 day timelines	16	12	12	4	33.3%	93 – 98%**
8. Transition (3 Indicators)	14	13	39	25	64.1%	100.0%
Total			55	33	60.0%	100.0%

* Correction of noncompliance was determined based on file reviews of the new SPOE regions that are covering the geographic areas covered by the former SPOE regions. New SPOE contracts were put in place February 1, 2006.

** Correction of noncompliance for timelines from referral to IFSP is based on the data in Attachment 2 which reflects all referrals to First Steps received between March 22, 2006, and April 14, 2006. As of May 31, 2006, 93.2% of the referrals statewide were processed within acceptable timelines. Of the referrals proceeding to IFSP development, 98.5% were completed within acceptable timelines.

B. Monitoring Not Related to Monitoring Priority Areas and Indicators:

As reported in the State Performance Plan						Update
Topic	# SPOE/ Agencies Reviewed 2003-04	# SPOE/ Agencies with Findings 2003-04	# Findings in SPOE/ Agencies 2003-04	# Corrected within 1 Year	% Corrected within 1 Year	% Corrected by June 1, 2006*
Referral Process	16	10	18	17	94.4%	100.0%
Evaluation/Assess Procedures	16	12	17	12	70.6%	100.0%
IFSP	16	11	25	24	96.0%	100.0%
Total			60	53	88.3%	100.0%

Referral Process includes checking that written notice was provided, that the notice contained the appropriate content and that parental consent was obtained prior to the evaluation of the child.

Evaluation/Assessment Procedures includes checking that current health records and medical histories are present and that the basis for determination of eligibility and need for EI services is present.

IFSP includes checking that written notification was provided, that the required meeting participants participated, that the services to be provided are described, that required transition elements are addressed, that an annual meeting to evaluate the IFSP was held, the six month review if the IFSP occurs, and that prior written notice is provided for change of services.

* Correction of noncompliance was determined based on file reviews of the new SPOE regions that are covering the geographic areas covered by the former SPOE regions. New SPOE contracts were put in place February 1, 2006.

Attachment 2

Timelines from Referral to IFSP (SPP Indicator 7)

Timelines for Missouri First Steps Referrals (3/22/2006 to 4/14/2006) as of May 31, 2006

In response to OSEP's March 14, 2006, letter regarding the Part C State Performance Plan, DESE notified SPOEs that a referral window of March 22, 2006, to April 14, 2006, would be used to report on levels of compliance with the requirement to complete evaluations, assessments and initial IFSP meetings within 45 days of referral. Data on the 396 referrals received in this window are summarized below. This shows that 93.2% of all referrals are being processed within timelines, and of the resulting IFSPs to date, 98.5% of initial IFSP meetings were held within timelines.

Category	Number
Total referrals to First Steps received between 3/22/06 and 4/14/06	396
Referrals Within Timelines	369
Referrals found not eligible or parent withdrew prior to IFSP	218
Initial IFSP meetings held within timelines	130
Referrals still in process but over 45 days with acceptable reasons	21
Referrals Exceeding Timelines	27
Referrals found not eligible or parent withdrew prior to IFSP	3
Initial IFSP meetings held exceeding timelines	2
Referrals still in process but over 45 days with unknown or unacceptable reasons	22
Referrals Within Timelines / Total Referrals	93.2%
IFSPs within Timelines / Total IFSPs	98.5%

Data as of 12:00pm 5/31/06